

Johnstone River Advocate

AND Innisfail News

CIRCULATING THROUGHOUT THE HERBERT ELECTORATE, NORTH QUEENSLAND.

IN THE DISTRICTS OF SOUTH JOHNSTONE, MOURLYAN, GOONDI, DARAJI, TULAY, CLUMP POINT, NERADA, EL ARISH, SILKWOOD, JAPOON, MUNDOO, MARIA CREEK, CARDWELL, INGHAM.

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INNISFAIL, FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 1929.

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Heavy Rains Fall.

MAIL TRAIN HELD UP

Washaways and Waterlogged Bridges Prevent Traffic.

1929 REGISTRATION TOTALS 1490 POINTS TO 9 a.m. TO-DAY

A washaway at Liverpool Creek Bridge, between 15 and 20 feet long, 15 feet of water above the bridge on the main line between Wangan and Boogan make it uncertain whether to-day's mail train from Cairns to Townsville will reach its destination.

All traffic on tramway systems has been suspended, owing to lines being submerged in various places, while the water this morning was 10 feet over the 3 ft. 6 in. bridge between Boogan and South Johnstone on the branch line.

Since 1929 opened, the total rainfall up to 9 a.m. this morning has been 1490 points, the detailed falls being:—
January 1st: 285 points.
January 2nd: 120 points.
January 3rd: 1065 points.

A telegram from Peermam at 9 a.m. this morning advised that the rainfall up to that hour had totalled 275 points, while the river was normal, but rain was still falling steadily.

A wire from Malanda at the same hour advised that 220 points had fallen up to 9 a.m. and that the river had risen one foot. Rain was still falling steadily.

The Stationmaster at Innisfail Railway Station, Mr. J. Killoran, advised this morning that conditions on the railway line between Innisfail and Townsville were not too promising. The submergence of the bridge at Boogan prevented the gangers from effecting repairs, as the extent of the damage could not be ascertained until the waters subsided.

Mr. Killoran added that the sweeper he received from Cairns, while at 10.30 a.m., the mail train was running one hour late, having been held up by a washaway on the north side of Babinda. The mail train's movements from Innisfail towards Townsville were uncertain.

Repairs to the line were being expedited as much as possible, and two ballast trains were on duty, but at the Boogan Bridge, operations were somewhat hampered through the waters being over the bridge.

The mail train from Townsville to Cairns was running on time this morning, but it was not known whether the schedule would be maintained as the day advanced.

Mr. J. Oakes, of the Flying Fish Point Pilot Station, advised that the rainfall there up to 9 a.m. this morning had totalled 10 inches 61 points. The barometer reading at 10.35 a.m. was 29.85. The sea outside the river was calm enough to be traversed by a flatboat, there being only a ground swell, but there were very dark clouds away to the eastward.

Many parts of the river are flooded, and the river levels are naturally

higher than usual, while there is much debris in the stream. It is reported that some boats have been drifting downstream, having evidently broken away from their moorings, and it is known that two boats are missing from Mourlyan, while some anchored at Goondi last night are reported to have disappeared also.

LATER NEWS.

All Trains Cancelled

The Stationmaster at Innisfail railway station, Mr. J. Killoran, announces that all trains to and from Innisfail to-day have been cancelled.

Mr. Killoran stated that the mail train which left Cairns for Townsville to-day could not proceed beyond Babinda, where there was eight feet of water over the bridge, and the train had since returned to Cairns.

The 12.40 p.m. and the 3.55 p.m. from Innisfail to Cairns were cancelled, while there are no train services on the Southern section, to-day's mail train from Townsville having returned to that city.

At 3 p.m., Mr. Killoran stated that there were bright prospects of traffic being resumed to-day, if further heavy rains would, of course, remove the cause for optimism.

BOATMAN POWERLESS AGAINST CURRENT

The South Johnstone stream has become a roaring current and many people spent some time to-day on Jubilee Bridge viewing the rushing watercourse, in which there is a considerable quantity of debris.

The power of the current was readily evident at 11.15 a.m., when a man in a row boat attempted to cross the stream from near the Bowling Club to the public landing place. As soon as he reached the main current, it swept the boat down the stream like a cork and the rower was unable to make any progress until he had been taken several hundred yards, when he pulled towards Nolan's wharf and reached his destination.

THAT COAT OF ARMS.

TO-DAY'S POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS

TWO YOUTHS ADMIT GUILTY.

The last chapter of an occurrence which earned international fame for Innisfail was enacted in the Summary Court at noon to-day, when before Mr. A. Atkin, P.M., Percy William James Dineen, aged 18, and Walter James Butcher, aged 17, appeared on the complaint of Sergeant Tuohy that, on December 23rd, last, they wilfully and unlawfully damaged an Italian Coat of Arms, the property of Giuseppe Longo.

The prosecution was conducted by Inspector Mann, of Cairns, who was sent here by the Queensland Government to specially investigate the matter, while the two defendants were represented by Mr. J. Boyett.

Inspector Mann said the defendants were charged under section 49 of the criminal code. The circumstances were that, on December 23rd, in company with another person who had since left the district, and who did not participate in the particular incident under review, at 11 p.m. were knocking around town and had some drink. It was regrettable to say that people of their age had got drunk, but there the fact was.

Mr. Atkin, Butcher just misses being in the Children's Court.

Inspector Mann continued that the defendants conceived the idea of removing certain people's property in Rankin Street, and they began by removing the signs from the picture theatre, which they piled up on top of each other across the street, and then placed two or three raw potatoes on the sign of Mr. C. J. Duffin. Going further down the street they saw the Italian Coat of Arms, which was attached to the National Bank buildings, where the constable was situated, the sign being some seven feet above the footpath. Defendants pulled down the sign and carried it to Messrs. How Koe Bros.' store, where they erected it on the flagpole, where it was found by the police. Defendants next removed the brass plate from Mr. J. Boyett's establishment to that of Mr. J. T. McNamee.

Inspector Mann said defendants then removed Mr. Sharp's sign and attached it to another building. There was no doubt that they had acted foolishly, but, as His Worship knew, at this time of the year, in all British communities, this sort of thing occurred, and even one's best friend could be accused. However, the incident in question may have developed into something very serious, but, after a long conference with the defendants, he was convinced that they had no intention of offering any insult to the Vice-Consul, or to the

Italian inhabitants of the district or the Italian Nation. Defendants had assured him they did not know it was the Italian Coat of Arms, but thought it was a sign of the National Bank. Had they known otherwise, they certainly would never have interfered with it, and they expressed their sorrow and regret for having been the cause of so much friction and trouble.

Inspector Mann said the police, instructed by the Government, had made every effort to unmask the offenders, but the Government had realised that the matter was serious. The instruction from the Government through the Commissioner of Police, was that no effort was to be spared and monetary considerations were not to be taken into account so long as the culprits were brought to justice.

Little damage, added the Inspector, had been done to the emblem. Defendants were respectable young chaps, and both natives of Innisfail.

Mr. J. Boyett said both defendants had always borne good characters and were respectable and hard-working. From time immemorial, at Christmas time, throughout the British Empire, practical jokes existed, and a certain spirit of toleration was granted which would not prevail at any other time of the year.

Defendants, with a spirit of mischief which was natural to most healthy boys, had gone round trying to play practical jokes, one of which, unfortunately, caused a great hurt to the feelings of the Italian residents. Defendants assured him they thought the emblem the ordinary sign of the bank. It was a foolish joke, but, as soon as the defendants found out about the police activities, they went to the station and made a statement meanwhile suffering great punishment through mental distress. There

(Continued on page 4)

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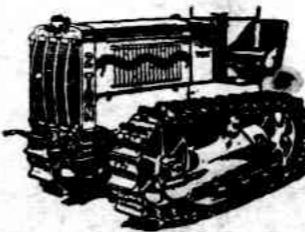
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